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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/719,015	12/06/2000	Yoshihito Ishibashi	450108-02585	3145

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EXAMINER

HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2136

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2004

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/719,015

Applicant(s)

ISHIBASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Brandon Hoffman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 8-13 are pending in this office action, claims 1-7 are cancelled and claim 13 is newly added.

Rejections

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "said control apparatus" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. Claims 8-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsuzaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,314).

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Regarding claim 8, Matsuzaki et al. teaches an information processing system for processing media contents from a content provider, comprising:

- At least one information processing apparatus (fig. 2, ref. num 3);
- A control apparatus configured to control the flow of said media contents from said content provider to said at least one information processing apparatus (fig. 2, ref. num 2); and
- A master information processing apparatus in communication with said at least one information processing apparatus and said control apparatus (fig. 2, ref. num 2), said master information processing apparatus including:
 - A first transmitter to transmit appropriate proxy account settlement information to said at least one information processing apparatus (fig. 3, ref. num 254 and col. 14, lines 35-38);
 - A first receiver to receive accounting information from said at least one information processing apparatus sent in response to said proxy account settlement information (fig. 2, ref. num 25, fig. 5, and col. 15, lines 12-36),
 - Said accounting information related to payment for media contents received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus from said content provider (fig. 5), said first receiver generating payment information when said accounting information is processed (col. 16, lines 3-21);
 - A second transmitter to transmit said payment information to said control apparatus (col. 16, lines 21-24); and

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- A second receiver to receive registration conditions from said control apparatus, said registration conditions prepared in response to receiving said payment information from the master information processing apparatus that settles payment for media contents received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus (col. 16, lines 34-59).

Regarding claim 13, Matsuzaki et al. teaches a method for controlling the flow of media contents from a content provider to at least one information processing apparatus, comprising:

- Controlling communication between a master information processing apparatus and said at least one information processing apparatus (fig. 2, ref. num 24 and 25), including:
 - Transmitting appropriate proxy account settlement information from said master information processing apparatus to said at least one information processing apparatus (col. 14, lines 35-38 and fig. 3, ref. num 254), and
 - Receiving accounting information at said master information processing apparatus from said at least one information processing apparatus sent in response to said proxy account settlement information, said accounting information related to payment for said media contents received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus from said content provider (fig. 2, ref. num 25, fig. 5, and col. 15, lines 12-36);
- Generating payment information when said accounting information is processed at said master information processing apparatus (col. 16, lines 3-21);

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- Transmitting said payment information to said content provider (col. 16, lines 21-24); and
- Receiving registration conditions from said control apparatus, wherein the registration conditions are prepared in response to receiving said payment information from the master information processing apparatus that settle payment for media contents received directly by said at least one information processing apparatus (col. 16, lines 34-59).

Regarding claim 9, Matsuzaki et al. teaches wherein said control apparatus includes a service provider (col. 1, lines 13-15).

Regarding claim 10, Matsuzaki et al. teaches wherein said information processing system includes an electronic music distribution system (col. 1, lines 9-13).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. Claim 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuzaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,314) as applied to claim 8 above

Regarding claims 11 and 12, Matsuzaki et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 8, above. However, Matsuzaki et al. does not teach wherein said first transmitter transmits said appropriate proxy account settlement information to said at least one information processing apparatus over a local-area network and wherein said second

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transmitter in said master information processing apparatus transmits said accounting information to said control apparatus over a wide-area network.

Although Matsuzaki et al. does not teach the limitations of claims 11 and 12, it is well known in the art to use any number of ways to communicate information from one device to the next. Some ways that are well known are over a local bus, as in the Matsuzaki et al. reference, over cable, wireless transmission, POTS, LAN, WAN, or any other hierarchy that allows multiple devices to communicate.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use a LAN for communication of the proxy account settlement information to the information processing apparatus and a WAN for communication of the accounting information to the control apparatus. It would have been obvious to perform these actions because a LAN and WAN both allow communications to occur between devices which are physically separated, thus allowing the communications to be more functional and involve a broader range of devices.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon Hoffman whose telephone number is 703-305-4662. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 703-305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Branda Hoff

BH

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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